



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

December 7, 2001

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

BACKGROUND

Prior to September 2001, two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Significant local and national resources were directed to the war effort. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, which controlled as much as 90% of the country, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men.

Humanitarian prospects worsened sharply in Afghanistan in September 2001 due to developments both inside and outside the country. Fears of a U.S. reprisal to the attacks of September 11 triggered a population exodus from major Afghan cities, both towards other points in Afghanistan and towards the country's borders. The beginning of U.S. air strikes on October 7 caused additional movement. International staff of all relief agencies withdrew after September 11, complicating the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Even prior to September 11, there were signs that relations between the international community and the Taliban were worsening significantly. These new developments added to an existing crisis of extensive displacement stemming from civil conflict and a debilitating three-year drought.

Afghanistan: Numbers Affected

Total population (CIA Factbook).....	26,813,057
Refugees Since September 11, 2001 (UNHCR)	
Pakistan.....	135,000
Iran.....	Unknown
Refugees Since September 2000 (UNHCR)	
Pakistan.....	152,000

Old Caseload Refugees (UNHCR)	
Iran.....	1,500,000
Pakistan.....	2,000,000
Internally Displaced (U.N.)	
Since September 11, 2001	180,000
Since 2000	1,100,000
Old caseload	1,000,000

Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan**	\$364,828,498
Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan	\$88,208,180

CURRENT SITUATION

Overview

Food aid shipments into Afghanistan are reaching target levels, although insecurity has blocked distribution to beneficiaries in certain areas. International relief presence has increased gradually, with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) active in all cities except Kandahar and United Nations (UN) representatives operating in Herat, Kabul, Jalalabad, and Faizabad. The security situation in Mazar-e Sharif is volatile, and some aid agencies are avoiding rural areas due to security concerns.

Political/Military

On December 5, the UN-sponsored conference on the future political landscape in Afghanistan produced an "Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of

Permanent Government Institutions." Leaders in Afghanistan are demonstrating varying degrees of support for the Agreement. On December 7, press reports stated that Taliban forces had ceded control of Spin Buldak and Kandahar to opposition forces. It is not yet clear how quickly or effectively this transition of authority will take place. Fighting continues in the eastern region around Jalalabad.

Security

The security landscape continues to dictate how well relief efforts are able to reach affected populations. Access is good in areas around Herat and Faizabad, where food and non-food aid shipments make regular supply and expatriate staff supervise efforts. NGO and International Organization (IO) representatives are also conducting programs in Kabul and Jalalabad, where security conditions within the cities during the day are permissive. Security outside a 30-kilometer radius of Kabul is less certain, however, according to NGOs operating in the city.

On December 4, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that two vehicles were fired upon while traveling in Pakistan near the Afghanistan border. There were no injuries reported. UNHCR suspended activities in the area until December 8.

NGO reports from Mazar-e Sharif indicate that the security situation there is volatile but permissive. Several NGOs are operating in the city, although few are operating outside of the city. The UN Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) office has completed a security assessment of the road from Andhkvoi to Mazar-e Sharif. No UN agencies are operating in Mazar-e Sharif yet, however, UNSECOORD plans to conduct a re-assessment of the security situation tomorrow to determine whether UN international staff may return to the city. The restricted access to Mazar-e Sharif is limiting the response to needs in the area, as described in the "Regional Updates" section below.

The reported surrender of Kandahar and Spin Buldak to opposition groups opens the possibility for increased relief access to the area, however the terms of the surrender remain to be determined. In addition, concern over mines and unexploded ordinance in the area may limit relief efforts in the near-term.

Food Aid and Logistics

Overview. Total food flows continue to be high after two weeks of depressed cross-border movements from November 13 to 24. Cross-border shipments in Afghanistan in November totaled 55,601 metric tons (MT), exceeding the goal for the month in spite of the obstructions that followed November 13. While shipments to accessible areas are high, large areas are still not being serviced due to security concerns. Priorities for current logistics operations include establishing winter stocks in the Hazarajat/Central Highlands region and in the Takhar and Badakshan provinces in the northeast; improving access to Mazar-e Sharif and surrounding areas; and opening access to Kandahar. The World Food Program (WFP) plans to deliver 100,000 MT of food into Afghanistan during December.

Current WFP Food Aid Stocks		
Location	Quantity (MT)	Beneficiaries
Afghanistan	24,011	2,881,341
Regional	35,853	4,302,405
Pakistan	3,816	457,940
Total Stocks	63,681	

(From WFP's Afghanistan Regional Emergency Daily Situation Report 12/07)

Northeast region. Inclement weather has interrupted the airlift from Kulyab, Kyrgyzstan to

Faizabad for several days over the past week. 227 MT of wheat has been airlifted into Faizabad to date, out of a total 2,000 MT intended for delivery by this route. Deliveries are also taking place via road. Truck convoys from Osh, Kyrgyzstan arrive daily. The delivery of food has been slowed somewhat because many short-haul commercial trucks in Faizabad sought better business opportunities in Kabul, leaving the long-haul convoys to distribute foods to local warehouses directly.

Northern region. The barge operation across the Amu Darya at Termez resumed after two weeks of suspension due to insecurity in Afghanistan. A UN assessment of the Hairaton port, where the barges are unloaded for distribution in Mazar-e Sharif and the surrounding area, determined that the route could reopen. On December 7 the first barge carrying 265 MT was dispatched and another barge was loaded for dispatch on December 8. The food will be moved directly from the barges to trucks for distribution to relief organizations operating in the area.

WFP intends to deliver the first shipment of wheat to Kunduz, where 100 MT of wheat delivered by truck from Tajikistan has recently provided the first food aid to the city since early September. Additional food shipments will be delivered to Mazar-e Sharif and the surrounding area. WFP has been conducting food distributions in Mazar-e Sharif through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). However, these distributions were only reaching 15,000 of the estimated 250,000 people in need of food assistance.

The closure of the Friendship Bridge at Termez has long been an obstacle to rapid movement of food aid into Afghanistan. An engineering assessment of the Friendship Bridge conducted this week with the support of the US Government determined that the bridge was sound. On December 6, the President of Uzbekistan indicated that the Friendship Bridge at Termez would be opened shortly.

There are also plans underway to open a second crossing at Nizhniy Pyandzh in Tajikistan. The governments of Germany, Russia and Tajikistan are coordinating a pontoon platform crossing to provide truck access to northern Afghanistan.

Operational support of these river crossings has been hampered by local government administrative constraints. On December 1 the Government of Tajikistan lifted its requirement that NGOs obtain a special permit to cross the border into Afghanistan, thereby reducing the time required to cross the border by approximately five days. However, the Government of Uzbekistan issued a requirement that all expatriates, including both diplomatic and humanitarian personnel, obtain a special visa to

enter Termez, which is a major hub for food deliveries into Afghanistan.

Central region. *WFP has made it a main priority to establish adequate stocks in the Hazarajat region before the winter begins. As of December 6, WFP has delivered 68% of the 33,228 MT of the stocks needed for the winter months. WFP aims to complete delivery of this amount by December 10, and distribute all of the food to implementing partners by December 22. In order to accomplish this, WFP has been shipping food into the region south from Turkmenistan and west from Peshawar, through Kabul and Bamian.*

The northern corridor through Turkmenistan has experienced a large increase in commodities traffic, including 15,000 MT of wheat purchased by WFP with USAID/OFDA funds in Kazakhstan and the first shipments of 34,500 MT of wheat donated by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) currently being off-loaded in Iran. The western corridor has provided less reliable shipments due to security concerns on the road between Kabul and Bamian, but WFP has announced that convoys are now transiting through that route cautiously.

Western region. *Food has been arriving at Herat from Turkmenistan with little interruption, and non-food items have been arriving from Iran. The 65,000 MT USDA donation includes 5,000 MT to be shipped through Mashhad, Iran to Herat and the Hazarajat.*

To buttress food supplies to Badghis and Ghor provinces, WFP is sending 12,000 MT of food from Turkmenabad to Torgunda by rail. From Torgunda the food will be loaded onto trucks for delivery to affected districts. WFP estimates that the food needs in both provinces is 21,800 MT for 436,000 people over the next 6 months. According to WFP half of that requirement has been delivered to the area to date.

Southern region. *Intense conflict around Kandahar has prohibited food aid shipment to and through the city since November 12. The USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) funded airlift from Quetta to Osh, Kyrgyzstan finished on December 4. The airlift transported food intended for northern Afghanistan to regional hubs in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan for shipment south into Afghanistan. Beginning December 3, WFP was able to conduct a distribution to 60,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) around Spin Buldak through implementing partners. However, there have been no deliveries to, or assessments of, the estimated 238,000 vulnerable people in and around Kandahar since November 12.*

Reports of an agreement between Taliban forces and opposition groups have raised hopes of reopening access to the city. On December 7 WFP reported

that it is prepared to deliver food stocks currently in Quetta, Pakistan to Kandahar as soon as security permits.

Eastern region. *The border crossing at Torkham, which was closed by Afghan commanders on November 29, reopened as of December 3. Subsequent shipments into and through Kabul have proceeded regularly.*

WFP completed the registration of families for the one-time general distribution of 50 kg of wheat in Kabul. The distribution will start on December 8 and will benefit 200,000 families. Radio stations have begun to broadcast the location of distribution points.

Regional Updates

Countrywide. *The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) had operated seven Regional Coordinating Bodies (RCBs) in Afghanistan prior to September 11 in order to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance at the local level. Local and international NGOs, IOs and donors have participated in the RCBs. The RCBs in Kabul, Faizabad and Herat have resumed operations. The RCB in Bamiyan is scheduled to reopen soon, while the remaining three RCBs are operating for alternate locations: the Jalalabad RCB is now in Peshawar; the Mazar-e Sharif RCB is in Termez; and the Kandahar RCB is located in Quetta.*

Residents' purchasing power for wheat is increasing in Jalalabad, Herat and Faizabad. Access to wheat continues to decrease, however, in Kabul. Second-hand reports from Kandahar indicate that food prices there have increased dramatically, making the situation even more difficult for the 238,000 IDPs that have not been reached by aid agencies for the last three weeks.

Northern region. *The situation in Mazar-e Sharif remains volatile. However, UNHCR reports that 8 NGOs now have international staff in the city, including ICRC, MSF, GOAL, ACTED, SCF/US, German Agroaction, Solidarites, and the Swedish Committee.*

IRC distributed 25 tons of BP5 high-energy biscuits funded by USAID/OFDA in Mazar-e Sharif. Conditions in the city are described by NGOs as dire.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that some 177 people, mostly children, died of hunger and exposure in Baghe Sherkat camp near Kunduz. Prior to September 11 IOM had registered 2,800 families in the camp. An IOM shipment of commodities will be arriving in Kunduz today for distribution to the IDPs in Baghe Sherkat. IOM reported that another 25 tons of BP5 biscuits funded

by USAID/OFDA is on its way to Kunduz from Tajikistan.

Northeastern region. *WFP restarted a food-for-education pilot project in Faizabad where 328 MT of wheat is being distributed in schools to benefit 5,178 boys, 5,250 girls, 656 teachers, and 46 service workers. This USG funded program is part of the Global Food for Education Initiative, initiated by Senator McGovern and is partially funded by USDA.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) restarted its literacy, maternal health and nutrition training programs in Faizabad.

Eastern region. *UNHCR completed their distribution of winter emergency kits to 10,500 people inside Kabul.*

WHO completed an assessment of 72 health facilities in Kabul, finding that all are in urgent need of rehabilitation, re-supply of medicine and equipment. The assessment also confirmed that the health facilities are understaffed, indicating that there are 75 percent fewer personnel than in 2000.

UNHCR reports that the major Nijni Pyandj-Shirkhan Bandar river crossing between Tajikistan and Afghanistan was opened and barges of humanitarian aid were scheduled to cross en route to Kabul during this weekend.

Western region. *The number of IDPs entering Herat province from the drought-affected areas of Ghor and Badghis remains uncertain. Conflicting reports have been received from various NGOs regarding daily arrivals with some reporting 500-1,000 daily arrivals and others reporting seeing much fewer arrivals in the past few days.*

In order to get a better count in Maslakh, IOM is planning to re-register the camp population and plans to start the process in about 8 days. The re-registration process should be completed by the end of the year. IOM is also planning to institute a system of checkpoints on the roads into Herat to better track the number of new arrivals. IOM expects the checkpoints to be up and running in a week.

To better target the needs of the IDPs in Maslakh camp, WFP plans to begin a bakery program in Herat within a month. The bakeries would produce enough for each family to receive 5 loaves of bread per day, targeting 200,000 people per day.

An inter-agency UN team led by UNHCR began an assessment of Maslakh camp this week. The team cites water and sanitation as the primary concern, not food. The team delivered tents, blankets, and plastic sheeting to Maslakh.

WFP reports that 60 MT of food is distributed inside Maslakh camp every day, enough to provide 7,200 families with a 50-kg bag of wheat. WFP is also providing wet-feeding to women and children.

Southern region. *Humanitarian agencies are hopeful that the Taliban surrender of Kandahar and Spin Buldak on December 6 will be a positive factor in the resumption of humanitarian assistance to the 240,000 IDPs in and around Kandahar and 60,000 IDPs in Spin Buldak.*

UNHCR reports that some 4,000 IDPs are waiting on the Afghanistan side of the border near the Chaman border crossing in cold temperatures and without shelter. UNCHR expects that these IDPs will be able to cross as soon as Pakistan reopens the border. Despite the border closing, a small number of people continue to arrive at the Killi Faizo staging area on a daily basis.

Pakistan. *UNHCR had suspended the relocation of refugees from Peshawar and Jalozai camp due to a security incident on December 4. Local authorities have agreed to provide heightened security, and UNHCR will resume the relocation process on December 8.*

Iran. *UNHCR reports that the rate of return from Iran to western Afghanistan is increasing in the past few days with some 2,000 Afghans crossing the Dogharoun border on December 6. More than 24,000 Afghans have returned since 12 November, some heading back to their homes as far eastward as Badakhshan and Baghlan provinces.*

Refugee returns from Iran to western Afghanistan continue at a rate of approximately 1,000 a day, according to a UNHCR report on November 25.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Background

On October 4, President George W. Bush announced a \$320 million assistance program for Afghanistan. Funding will support assistance to Afghans both inside and outside Afghanistan's borders, with support for food and a wide variety of other relief needs.

On October 4, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by the USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Department of Defense Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law

Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance includes both assistance inside Afghanistan and assistance to Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

Personnel. USAID/OFDA currently has two Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) deployed to Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity each area.

NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Afghanistan. *USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to WFP to support the logistics requirements, primarily road maintenance equipment, of its current food aid distribution program. The grant supplements the \$13.5 million previously granted to WFP's Afghanistan operation for food commodities and food transport equipment.*

On December 3, USAID/OFDA approved a \$3.6 million grant to CARE for water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, and shelter activities. The water component, valued at \$355,005, includes pumping of potable water and delivery of house-to-house health education to approximately 59,000 people in Kabul. The agriculture component, valued at \$909,922, supports a work program to rehabilitate critical farming facilities in Ghazni and Wardak provinces for 100,000 people. The shelter program provides \$2,318,403 for food and short-term work opportunities to some 75,000 people in Zabul, Khandahar, Farah, Nangahar and Laghman, as well as reconstruction of nearly 5,000 homes in Kabul province.

On November 30, USAID/OFDA issued a grant for \$3.5 million to International Medical Corps (IMC) for primary health care activities in Bamiyan, Wardak, and Parwan provinces in central Afghanistan. Activities will include emergency primary health care, maternal and child health care, obstetric care, and supplementary feeding.

To date, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has airdropped 2,229,480 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs) into Afghanistan. According to DOD, the cost of the airdrop operations, including the rations, transport, and fuel expenses, total approximately \$48 million. The previously reported total of more than \$120 million reflects the estimated total cost of the entire four to five month airdrop operation.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
FY 2002				
AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY				
USAID/OFDA				
Airlift – Turkmenistan for IOM		20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$751,102
Airlift – Turkmenistan		1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
Airlift – Islamabad		35,400 blankets		\$312,350
Airlift – Pakistan		5 health kits		\$29,415
Airlift -Turkmenabad		5 health kits		\$33,923
Airlift - Uzbekistan		350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
ACTED		Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
ACTED		IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
CARE		Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,853,330
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)		Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,000
Concern Worldwide		Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
GOAL		Food, Shelter, Water, Sanitation, Winterization	Samangan and Jozjan Provinces	\$5,500,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh Provinces	\$562,313
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary Health Care	Kabul	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps International (MCI)		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
MCI		Health	Herat	\$735,000
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center	All	\$2,500,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA				\$59,320,284

USAID/FFP			
WFP	Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP	72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP			\$40,555,000
USAID/OTI			
Voice of America	Radio program	All	\$1,687,820
Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI			\$1,687,820
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Emergency Appeal		\$6,500,000
IFRC	Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
IOM	Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Project Management Information System		\$160,000
UNOCHA	Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,000,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
WFP	Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
UNHCR	Emergency Appeal		\$10,000,000
UNICEF	Emergency Relief		\$2,000,000
Total FY 2002 State/PRM			\$32,260,000
DOD			
	Airdrop of 2,005,620 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)		\$47,897,769
Total FY 2002 DOD **			\$47,897,769
Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan**			\$181,720,873
TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT			
USAID/OFDA			
CARE	Purchase and distribution of winter wheat for 4,500 families		\$998,180
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....			\$998,180
USAID/FFP			
WFP	35,000 MT wheat flour		20,000,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP			\$20,000,000
Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan			\$20,998,180

FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY	
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*.....	\$183,107,625
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002.....	\$181,720,873
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001	\$364,828,498
Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001	\$67,210,000
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002	\$88,208,180

*Note: Detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region Situation Reports.

**Note: DOD funding totals are estimates. The previously reported total of more than \$120 million reflects the estimated total cost of the entire four to five month airdrop operation.

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